



Foundation *Insider*



The Holidays came early this year! Rosh Hashanah arrived and 5780 became 5781. *Yom Kippur* came, and we confessed our sins and recited the *Un'tanneh Tokef* before the open Ark. Who will live and who will die in a frightening list of terrifying final events. Included in this list is a plague that might be interpreted as our present day COVID-19. In the approximately 11 centuries since this prayer was written many horrific events, dark ages, political atrocities, plagues, diseases and celestial disasters have befallen the Jewish people and all of humanity.

At the completion of this prayer we say aloud, “But repentance, prayer, and charity remove the evil of the decree!”

Although this may seem like a dark introduction and that we are living in a dark time, let us use this time to reflect on who we are as individuals, our families and our communities. How can we strengthen each of these elements of our lives?

Nana and Papa (that’s me) just returned from a pilgrimage. We drove to Fairfax, VA to visit our daughter Laura and her family (read grandchildren). We celebrated the simultaneous occurrence of *Sukkot* and my 70th birthday. We ate in their *Sukkah*, and as I lead the singing of *shehecheyanu* - how joyous was it to proclaim - “Who has kept us alive, sustained us and brought us to this season.” *Dayenu!*

Chol HaMoed Sukkot we drove with complete COVID-19 precautions and Kosher food in our coolers to Denver to visit our son Ben and his family (read more grandchildren). We celebrated *Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* in their *Sukkah* with them. Another *shehecheyanu* and another birthday celebration. *Dayenu!*

We then headed to the mountains to help Ben create a cabin. While this project was not quite “creating the heavens and the earth” it was a wonderful way to spend the week of *Parshat Bereshit* in the beauty and solitude of the Rocky Mountains. We made our exit before Noah and the floods (snow). *Dayenu!*

The third quarter ended right on time! Our investment strategy has been on the conservative end of our asset allocations. This has lowered our year to date return but has added safety in an unpredictable and above normal risk market.

Please find your own ways to strengthen family. Create or add to Donor Advised Funds. Make contributions to the organizations you support. Take time to reflect and make a difference in our world today!

Howard C Mezer

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